

## Pirates Fan Protest Tonight Created By Ownership

Written by Maury Brown  
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***Pirates fans will protest at tonight's game. Ownership is the root cause.***

Fifteen years of futility in the standings would be bad enough for Pirates fans. But when you couple the futility with a clear ownership direction that is based on making the most out of a diminishing product, it's enough to make them want to protest.

That is what will happen at tonight's game at PNC Park against the Washington Nationals, when a group of fans led by businessman Andy Chomos of Wexford, Pa, will get up in the third inning, and walk out onto the concourse with the hope that they will leave a sea of empty seats that represents ownership's broken promises.

Fans are being asked to wear green representing the lack of financial backing for on-the-field talent that ownership has not provided over the course of their tenure, and during the time that fans are not in their seats, they are urged to not spend a cent on concessions or merchandise.

"I appreciate the passion of all of our fans and their frustration with the team's performance," Bob Nutting said Friday in a team-issued statement. "Frankly, we all share in this frustration. Everyone throughout the organization understands the expectation and needs to perform."

If only we could believe that.

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